

**GOD'S WATCHFULNESS AND SOLICITUDE FOR HIS PEOPLE**

(Isa. 62: 1-12, Lowth's Translation)

1. For Sion's sake I will not keep silence: and for the sake of Jerusalem I will not rest; until her righteousness break forth as a strong light; and her salvation, like a blazing torch.
2. And the nations shall see thy righteousness; and all the kings, thy glory; and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of Jehovah shall fix upon thee.
3. And thou shalt be a beautiful crown in the hand of Jehovah; and a royal diadem in the grasp of thy God.
4. No more shall it be said unto thee, Thou forsaken! Neither to thy land shall it be said anymore, thou desolate! But thou shalt be called, The object of My delight; and thy land, The wedded matron; for Jehovah shall delight in thee; and thy land shall be joined in marriage.
5. For as a young man weddeth a virgin, so shall thy Restorer wed thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth in his bride, so shall thy God rejoice in thee.
6. Upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, have I set watchmen all the day; and all the night long they shall not keep silence. O ye that proclaim the name of Jehovah!
7. Keep not silence yourselves, nor let Him rest in silence; until He establish, and until He render Jerusalem a praise in the earth.
8. Jehovah hath sworn by His right hand, and by His powerful arm; I will no more give thy corn for food to thine enemies; nor shall the sons of the stranger drink they wine, for which thou hast laboured;
9. But they that reap the harvest shall eat it and praise Jehovah; and they that gather the vintage shall eat it in My sacred courts.
10. Pass ye, pass through the gates; prepare the way for the people! Cast ye up, cast up the causeway; clear it from the stones! Lift up on high a standard to the nations!
11. Behold, Jehovah hath thus proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say ye to the daughter of Sion, Lo thy Saviour cometh! Lo, His reward is with Him, and the recompense of His work before Him. And they shall be called, The Holy people, and redeemed of Jehovah;
12. And thou shalt be called, the much desired, the city unforsaken.

It is plainly to be seen that it is God who is speaking in this chapter. It is He who says that he will not hold His peace, nor keep silence until the righteousness of His people – all Jerusalem – breaks forth as a strong light. When we consider this, what comfort we find in the words. God has charged Himself with our case. He is interested in our behalf. Now since God so earnestly desires our righteousness, and has said that He will not relax His efforts to that end, what is there on earth that can keep us from being righteous, if we are but willing? God is almighty, and what He has

promised, He is able also to perform. Let no one say that it is impossible to live without sin. With God all things are possible.

God saves us for service. He is not content with merely making us righteous, and so saving us, but He will have the righteousness shine forth for the enlightenment of others, and salvation go forth from His people, even as it does from Himself. What will take place when all the people see the righteousness and the salvation which He brings to us? – “Many shall see it and fear, and turn to the Lord.” Ps.40:1-3.

Compare verse 2 with Rev. 2:17. What intimate relationship and loving companionship this reveals! Two friends, who are much more than mere friends, often know each other by a name that is not known to others. It would be a breach of confidence, almost a sacrilege, if they used the name before others. It is a sign of their mutual love and confidence. So God takes His people into intimate relationship with Himself, and He so takes them not merely as a whole, but individually. He has a special name for each one, which is known only to Him and that one. His love is infinite, and therefore there is enough for each one. There will be no jealousy because another receives the same attention that we do. How precious are His thoughts toward us!

“The Lord taketh pleasure in His people; He will beautify the meek with salvation.” Ps. 149:4. He will even make of them a crown of glory, and a royal diadem. Think of the exalted position to which God has determined to elevate His people: He will make them His crown of glory; they will be an adornment even to Him. What an incentive to walk worthy of the calling of God.

How many people there are who are called Forsaken. “Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God.” Ps.3:2. The devil has told many people that they have committed the unpardonable sin, and that God has forsaken them; and he has, sad to say, agents on the earth, who repeat the words. But “the Lord will not cast off for ever.” Lam.3:31. “He that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37. “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” Heb.13:5. Whoever is oppressed by the thought that God has forsaken him, may know that He has not; because the fact that he feels sad over the supposed casting off, is proof that he does not wish to be separate from God; and it is only man that can effect any such separation. Thank God, the time is soon coming when there will be no possibility for anyone to call another Forsaken, for it will be apparent to all that God is in the midst of His people. But if we are ever to rejoice in God’s salvation, we should do it now. God has not forsaken Zion. See Isa.49:14-16. Therefore cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion; for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.” Isa. 12:6.

Watchman have been set on the walls of Zion by God Himself. This is proof that He has not forsaken His people. It is the devil who would make people believe that God has forsaken them, because he knows that when they feel that they are out of God’s care they fall an easy prey to him. (continued over page)

But God says of His vineyard, - His people,- “Lest any hurt it I will keep it night and day.” Isa. 27:3. So the watchman whom He appoints, and whose duty it is to sound the alarm of danger, and also to announce glad tidings of good things, are not to hold their peace day or night. They are the ones who are to “make mention of the Lord,” that is, remind people of Him. To them He says: “Keep not silence yourselves, nor let him rest in silence.” “Take no rest, and give Him no rest,” until He makes Jerusalem a praise in the whole earth, - until His people are saved, and made to dwell in the New Jerusalem, the capital of the new earth. How different God is to the unjust judge. See Luke 18:1-8. The unjust judge did not wish to be disturbed; he did not wish to have anybody – poor people, at least- come to him with a plea for help. But God, on the contrary, begs us to come to Him, and make known our troubles and needs. “Come any time, come day or night; yea, come both day and night, and do not let there be a minute’s intermission, but keep making requests, even demands, of Me,” is what God says. What a loving Father! Why will anybody be so distrustful as to go in want.